



# ROGART NEWS

## Community Council Jottings

We now have a new Community Council: Matthew Fox (Treasurer), Jonathan Hedges (Secretary), Frank Roach (Chair), Rachel Allan, Tommy Sutherland, Shannon Ross.

The 20mph speed limit is up for consultation. The Community Council view is that it is too long and should be limited to the Hall to just past the Garage, with 30 mph restored either side. Please email [rogartcommunitycouncil@gmail.com](mailto:rogartcommunitycouncil@gmail.com) with your views, or speak to any Council member.

Our next meeting will be Mon 5 February 2024 in the hall. We hope to be joined by Low Carbon, a windfarm development company, who will be discussing a new windfarm proposal in the parish. Low Carbon also have a project at Forsinain.

Recent Microgrant awards have been made to Rogart in Bloom, RDT Christmas Carols/Santa, Golspie HS pupils Christmas Meal.

The Community Council will be consulting on a Place Plan in 2024, a document identifying the community's needs and aspirations that will be fed into the Highland Council's Local Development Plan.

## Rogart Development Trust Update 07.07.23

Putting the community at the heart of Rogart

## Christmas Market - Saturday 16th December 1000-1400

This is the last of the quarterly markets this year. As always there are fantastic stalls offering lovely Highland produce; great art and crafts; delicious baking; and local goods and curios - ideal festive gifts that are close to home and heart. We look forward to seeing you there and joining us in sharing the season's joy with a hot bacon roll or two!

## Christmas Carol Evening - Friday 22nd December from 6pm

Along with the Christmas Carols we have a special guest calling who is hoping that the Rogart children will pop in and see him - Santa himself! Come and join us for a lovely evening of song, mulled wine, and festive joy. The last carol will be sung around the beautiful Christmas tree (weather permitting!)

The Mart heater will be on, warming the toes and vocal chords at both events!

## Mart

Phase 2 of the Mart project leading to its completion. This will optimise the outside area with the construction of canopies and generally improve accessibility and safety at the Mart.

Various works have been carried out in the Green Room kitchen. Due to the bad weather further outside work has been postponed to the New Year. The aim is to have Phase 2 finished by the spring in time for next season.

## Round Rogart Path

We are delighted that so many local people are enjoying the path. In the latest flooding the river completely submerged the bridge but fortunately it came through unscathed. The approach paths on either side of the bridge weren't quite so lucky, being partly washed away. However, the paths are usable once again - many thanks to the volunteers that helped.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the community for helping our events come to life, bringing energy, bustle and joy to the village. Special thanks to all our volunteers who have given up their time to make the first year of running the Mart such a success. We're looking forward to next year!



## Friends of St Callan's

A public meeting was held in the Hall on 6 November attended by 39 people to discuss the future of St Callan's Church, following the announcement by the Church of Scotland to close the listed building by the end of 2024.

There was unanimous support for the creation of a community group to take control of the building. It will have a future role as a centre for culture, education, history and heritage, housing the John Macdonald archive and, although being deconsecrated, still being available for weddings and funerals etc. The John Macdonald archive is a valuable local resource containing research dating back more than 50 years.



St Callan's, Rogart

The graveyard around St Callan's will remain in Highland Council ownership. The Friends of St Callan's as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) will be able to negotiate the transfer of the asset with the Church of Scotland HQ in Edinburgh. Thank you to all who have signed the petition, and to those from around the world who have written in support.

## SSEN Power Lines

At the online meeting held on Tuesday 5 December with all Community Councils on the Spittal-Beaully route, SSEN confirmed that their preferred route is via Kinnauld/Morvich.

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/project-map/spittal--loch-buidhe--beaully-400kv-connection/>

## Rogart Primary Christmas fund raiser

The Rogart Primary Christmas fund raiser was a fantastic success. The Rogart PTA would like to thank the community and visitors for their continued support.

Thank you so much to everyone who made donations and special thanks to Bob Miers for his continued support.

Thank you to everyone who helped get the hall ready, organise the day, supplied the delicious baking and tidying up afterwards.

Rogart PTA.

## Look after your Pets at Christmas

During the busy winter period and the hustle and bustle of Christmas and New Year, it is easy to forget some of the toxin exposure risks to our pets during this time. These risks can come from within the home and also outdoors, so is important to be mindful of the common toxins to our pets to prevent any exposures.

Christmas decorations for example! It is very exciting getting the house and tree decorated in preparation for Christmas but it is important to consider our pets when doing this.



In memory of Joseph

Puppies and cats in particular like to play and chew on potentially dangling bright lights which in return, can cause electrical burns within their mouth! It is important to keep lights up high and any other

dangling ornaments/baubles out of reach of pets. Glass or baubles that will shatter if chewed on, could cause injury to the inside of the mouth or also internal structures if ingested.

Although tinsel is very pretty and sparkly and may look good on our trees. It is very dangerous to our cats in particular. It is not poisonous to them, but if ingested can cause something called a linear foreign body which is potentially life threatening.

Plants. There are many plants used with holiday bouquets or wreaths that are extremely toxic to our pets. In particular Lilies, which are extremely toxic to our cats if ingested causing kidney failure. Holly berries, mistletoe and Japanese Yew are all plants to watch out for if buying Christmas wreaths or bouquets as they are all toxic to our pets.

Now I know we all like a drink or a rum-soaked fruitcake over the festive period..... however, that does not mean our pets need to join in the celebrations. Not only are our pets not allowed alcohol, the fruit in fruitcakes (raisins, grapes and currents) can also cause kidney failure in our pets and should absolutely be avoided. Also, not forgetting that unbaked dough containing yeast may bloat in our pets' stomach, causing life threatening problems such as gastric dilation with volvulus where the stomach twists. Not only that but the alcohol from the fermenting yeast will be rapidly absorbed by their bodies. Chocolate and cocoa also contain an ingredient that is highly toxic to our pets and should not be given, even in small amounts. A lot of sweets and sugarless gum now also contains something called xylitol which is highly toxic to our pets and is life-threatening.

Lastly, salt and ice. It is vital at this time of the year that our roads and pavements are gritted for the ice and snow. But this poses a problem to our pets who pick up the salt on their pads when out walking, which in itself can cause irritation of their pads. If the salt is then licked off and ingested during grooming, it can cause salt poisoning and is important veterinary attention is sought immediately. It is very important during the winter to months to always wash your pets' paws when they come in from a walk or outside to wash off any salt. Antifreeze is another major problem with our cats as they find it very appealing to lick, which in return can cause life threatening problems if veterinary attention is not provided.

With thanks from Rachael Wilson, Rogart Vets

## Fauna in Rogart

It is now almost six years since we moved to Rogart and hopefully some of the following observations related to the wildlife of the area, which may well be noted by others, should be of some concern, particularly to those who have children and grandchildren.

A steady decline in the numbers of Willow Warblers with a knock on effect on Cuckoo numbers is under way. Stonechat have disappeared from some areas in total.

Has anyone seen a Yellowhammer lately ? it would be good to know. There are no Swifts and Swallow and House Martin Numbers are very sparse. Sand Martin numbers are low, but rely to a great extent on river levels for a successful season. Our small Rook colony holds on despite constant harassment by the overpopulation of Jackdaws and "Apex Predators" are thriving. Being something of an insomniac I have watched Bat numbers fall from low to this years ZERO !



Yellowhammer (I think) - ed

The above share one thing in common. They are insectivores, but where are other denizens such as Fox, Stoat, Weasel, Mole, Vole and Rabbit ? Moles seem to be in abundance, but a walk on new fallen winter snow shows a singular lack of presence of other mammals. This is in what we should consider untouched countryside.

I will close on a lighter note by saying that I saw a Brown Hare for the first time in six years; it was on the Inverness College Campus.

John Craig

## Rogart Hall Calendar

### Indoor Bowling

Every Thursday 7.00pm to 9.00pm

### Family Matinee

Sunday 17 December - 2pm

### Sutherland Accordion & Fiddle Ceilidh Dance

Saturday 20 January

Saturday 17 February

Phone Monica on [01408 641388](tel:01408641388) in case of changes or for further information.

### The Hub

Tuesdays 11am to 3pm (see advert for more information)

### Coffee & Blether

There will be no Coffee and Blethering in January, restarts on

Thursday 15 February 10.30-12.00

Phone Madaleine on [01408 641397](tel:01408641397) for further details

### Rogart Heritage Society

Saturday 27 January 7.30pm

### Community Council Meeting

Monday 5 February 7.30pm

## Rogart Mart Calendar

### Community Market

Saturday 16 December 10.00am

### Carol Singing and Santa

Friday 22 December 6.00pm

## Local Business Listings

If you have a local business and would like to be included please contact Peter Horsler at [morsefields@gmail.com](mailto:morsefields@gmail.com).

### Dave Brampton podiatrist/chiroprapist

[davebrampton@gmail.com](mailto:davebrampton@gmail.com), [01408641478](tel:01408641478), [07733261163](tel:07733261163).

Rowan cottage, 10 Acheilidh, Rogart. I have been a podiatrist/chiroprapist over 30 year's and I only charge seniors rate of £20 for Rogart and local visits.

### Toes & Soles Footcare, Mobile foot health

practitioner. Contact Amy McHardy on [07810847948](tel:07810847948), [toesandsolesfootcare@outlook.com](mailto:toesandsolesfootcare@outlook.com)

**Karen Bell, Into the Wild Therapy**, one to one counselling, meditation and nature connection, Little Rogart. [www.intothewildtherapy.co.uk](http://www.intothewildtherapy.co.uk), [07849 837835](tel:07849837835)

December 2023

## Spar and Post Office opening hours over the festive period

	Shop	Post office
25 Dec	Closed	Closed
26 Dec	Closed	Closed
27 Dec	Open 08:30 to 13:00	Closed
1 Jan	Closed	Closed
2 Jan	Closed	Closed
3 Jan	Open 08:30 to 13:00	Closed

Normal hours outwith these days

Sandy and staff send all good wishes for health and happiness to you now and in 2024. We thank you, our customers, for your valued support throughout the year as without your support the shop would not be here.

## Rogart Village Hub



### Rogart Village Hall

Every Tuesday, starting 24th October  
11.30am-2.30pm

Only £4.45: for lunch, plus tea, coffee & cake/biscuits and activities

Some activities may incur a small additional cost


**Join us for fun, friendship and a variety of entertainment. All welcome!**

For more details call Connecting Communities 01431 821655 or email [wendy@connectingcommunities.co.uk](mailto:wendy@connectingcommunities.co.uk)

With thanks to Rogart Community Council with funding from Gordonbush and Kilbraur



# Acheilidh Windfarm

QR Code here 

The Community Council is seeking views from across the parish which will assist it in its response to the planning application for Acheilidh Windfarm. The Energie Kontor proposal is for 12 turbines- 6 x 230m and 6 x 200m. Full project details can be found at

<https://www.energiekontor.co.uk/our-projects/Acheilidh>



It now includes photomontages from various residential parts of the parish as these were requested by us. The planning application will be lodged with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) at Scottish Government around the end of the year, as it is above the threshold for Highland Council to consider. There will be a period of one month for comments to be made to the ECU via <https://www.energyconsents.scot/ApplicationDetails.aspx?cr=ECU00004528>. We understand that the access route for construction will be via Lairg II windfarm, also being developed by Energie Kontor.

We would urge you to let us know your views by completing this tear off slip and returning it to the box in the shop, or to Rogart CC c/o Station House. Please include the views of all residents of the household over 16 years of age, and be sure to include your name(s) and address to ensure the count is fair.

Frank Roach Chair Rogart CC

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## Acheilidh Windfarm Poll

Name(s)

Address

I/we **agree** with the proposal to develop Acheilidh Windfarm

(enter the number of people, all names must be listed above)

I/we **object** to the proposal to develop Acheilidh Windfarm

(enter the number of people, all names must be listed above)

**Please return by 6 January 2024**, this form will be destroyed after the count.